

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid absorbent material comprising an open-cell polymeric foam material comprising either polysaccharide or polypeptide, the foam material comprising a distribution of pore sizes between 0 and 3 µm, the foam material having an absorption rate at wetting of at least 0.4 ml/s for a round sample having a 50 mm diameter, a liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° of at least 15 g/g, and a liquid storage capacity of at least 9% measured through centrifuge retention capacity and a gel liquid absorption of at least 4 g/g measured by pore volume distribution, for synthetic urine test liquid.
2. (Previously presented) A liquid absorbent material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorption rate at wetting is at least 0.5 ml/s, the liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° is at least 16 g/g, and the liquid storage capacity measured through centrifuge retention capacity is at least 11%.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) A liquid absorbent material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foam material contains fibers in its pore system.
5. (Previously presented) An absorbent structure in an absorbent article, wherein the absorbent structure comprises a liquid absorbent material according to claim 1.
6. (Previously presented) An absorbent structure as claimed in claim 5, wherein said absorbent structure is comprised solely of said foam material.

7. (Previously presented) An absorbent structure as claimed in claim 5, wherein the foam material has a three-dimensional anatomic shape.
8. (Previously presented) A liquid absorbent material as set forth in claim 1, wherein the liquid absorbent material is used in an absorbent structure in an absorbent article and the absorbent article is a diaper, a pant diaper, a sanitary napkin, an incontinence guard, a wound dressing, or a bed protection.
9. (Previously presented) An absorbent structure in an absorbent article as claimed in claim 5, wherein the absorbent article is a diaper, a pant diaper, a sanitary napkin, an incontinence guard, a wound dressing, or a bed protection.
10. (Previously presented) A liquid absorbent material as claimed in claim 20, wherein the gel liquid absorption is at least 5 g/g synthetic urine.
11. (Previously presented) A liquid absorbent material as claimed in claim 20, wherein the capillary liquid absorption is at least 10 ml/g synthetic urine.
12. (Previously presented) A liquid absorbent material as claimed in claim 20, wherein the gel liquid absorption is at least 5 g/g synthetic urine and the capillary liquid absorption is at least 10 ml/g synthetic urine.
13. (Currently Amended) A liquid absorbent material comprising an open-cell polymeric foam material comprising either polysaccharide or polypeptide, the foam material having a first distribution of pore sizes between 0 and 3 μm and a second distribution of pore sizes between 3 and 100 μm , the foam material having an absorption rate at wetting of at least 0.4 ml/s for a round sample having a 50 mm diameter, a liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° of at least 15 g/g, and a liquid storage capacity of at least 9% measured through centrifuge retention capacity and a gel liquid absorption of at least 4 g/g measured by pore volume distribution, for synthetic urine test liquid.
14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A liquid absorbent material comprising an open-cell polymeric foam material comprising either polysaccharide or polypeptide, the foam material having a first distribution of pore sizes between 0 and 3 μm and a second distribution of pore sizes between 3 and 500 μm , the foam material having an absorption rate at wetting of at least 0.4 ml/s for a round sample having a 50 mm diameter, a liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° of at least 15 g/g, and a liquid storage capacity of at least 9% measured through centrifuge retention capacity and a gel liquid absorption of at least 4 g/g measured by pore volume distribution, for synthetic urine test liquid.

16. – 19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A liquid absorbent material comprising an open-cell polymeric foam material comprising either polysaccharide or polypeptide, the foam material having an absorption rate at wetting of at least 0.4 ml/s for a round sample having a 50 mm diameter, a liquid distribution capacity at an inclination of 30° of at least 15 g/g, a liquid storage capacity of at least 9% measured through centrifuge retention capacity, for synthetic urine test liquid, a first distribution of pores with a diameter less than 3 μm which produces a gel liquid absorption of at least 4 g/g synthetic urine, and a second distribution of pores with a diameter between 3 and 100 μm which produces a capillary liquid absorption of at least 8 ml/g.